

Message Text

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20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DODE-00 PM-07 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCI-06 FEA-02 DRC-01 L-03 SAM-01 /057 W

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R 190736Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 685

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JAPAN

DFSC CAMERON STATION

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3612

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG PFOR JA MARR

SUBJ: FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR US FORCES

REF: A. STATE 42891 B. TOKYO 2941

1. ON MARCH 13, 1974, CHIEF, SECURITY DIVISION, YAMASHITA INFORMED POLITICAL/MILITARY COUNSELLOR THAT, IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S INFORMAL INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER OR NOT US FORCES MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO EXECUTE JP-4 CONTRACT WITH OKINAWA SEKIYU, GOJ HAD TO PROVIDE NEGATIVE ANSWER. REASONING, PROVIDED BY MITI, AS FOLLOWS:

(1) PROSPECTS FOR CRUDE OIL SUPPLY TO JAPAN STILL UNCLEAR FOR NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

(2) REGULATIONS OF POL PRODUCTS IN JAPAN WERE EFFECTIVE OFFICIALLY ONLY ON JANUARY 20, AND IT TOO SOON TO AMEND THEM.

(3) JAPANESE CONSUMERS, WHOSE POL PRODUCTS STILL UNDER REGULATION, WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND DEREGULARIZATION OF POL PRODUCTS FOR US FORCES.

(4) MITI CANNOT EXEMPT SINGLE COMPANY FROM IMPACT OF REGULATION BUT MUST DO SO FOR ENTIRE GROUP OF COMPANIES SUPPLYING FUEL TO US FORCES.

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2. YAMASHITA SAID THAT OKINAWA SEKIYU PRESIDENT OKUMURA, WHO FORMER VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HAD APPROACHED NOT ONLY US FORCES BUT ALSO MITI AND FONOFF. YAMASHITA SAID THAT FONOFF ITSELF WISHED TO ASSIST OKUMURA BUT COULD NOT REPEAT NOT OVERCOME MITI OPPOSITION.

3. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR EMBASSY TO TAKE UP MATTER PERIODICALLY WITH FONOFF OVER NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS, AND WE INTEND TO DO SO UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPLIES, PETROLEUM, ARMED FORCES, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FUEL OIL, MILITARY BASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO03612
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740331/aaaabcye.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 42891 B. TOKYO 2941
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUEL PROCUREMENT IN JAPAN FOR US FORCES
TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, MARR, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005